

Delaware CEDS

*a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
for the State of Delaware*



Delaware CEDS – a program of the Delaware Economic Development Office
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NEW CASTLE REGION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

September 22, 2005

7:00–9:00 p.m.

Newark Senior Center, Newark

Committee Members Present: Dave Carilli, Roy Lopata, Tigist Zegeye, Brett Saddler, Theresa Hasson, Karl Kalbacher, Jayne Armstrong, Nancy Bastidas, Dale Ervin, Michael McCabe

CEDS Support Staff: Ed O'Donnell (co-facilitator), Ron Whittington (co-facilitator), Marcia Scott, Nicole Quinn, Garrett Wozniak

DEDO Staff Present: 0

Number of Public Participants Present: 4

The New Castle County CEDS meeting started at approximately 7:08 p.m. and was led by Marcia Scott (IPA staff) and facilitated by Ed O'Donnell and Ron Whittington. Ed O'Donnell opened the meeting by introducing the IPA staff, members of the public, and the committee members.

Marcia Scott presented a brief overview of CEDS process, including the role of the state and regional committees.

Ron Whittington then asked the committee members and audience to engage in a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis, utilizing flipcharts placed around the meeting room. The exercise was undertaken to determine perceptions on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to New Castle County's economy.

After the SWOT exercise, Ed O'Donnell provided a quick review of the exercise and urged participants to come to a consensus on the regional economy's key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as well as trends. The results of that discussion are noted below:

Strength: Location was overwhelmingly chosen as the most crucial strength.

Weakness: Over-burdensome state and county regulations.

Opportunity: Leverage and the changing economy were each discussed; however, no consensus could be reached.

Threat: Global economic competition (including business consolidation)

Trend: No consensus was reached on any dominant trend.

Ron Whittington adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. and announced that the next meeting will take place on Thursday, October 6, from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Claymont Community Center.